

Message Text

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63

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-20 RSC-01 SSO-00 /044 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN:TL

APPROVED BY S - THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR. SISCO

S/S - MR. BARNES

NEA/EX - MR. HUNT

AF/N - MR. BLAKE

M - AMBASSADOR BROWN

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O 280228Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251345

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, U.S., OGEN

SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF FSO THOMAS J. SCOTES AS CHIEF USINT
SECTION DAMASCUS

FOR AMBASSADOR AND SCOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

1. DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO DAMASCUS PRESIDENT ASAD AND I AGREED ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF AMERICAN AND SYRIAN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL TO INTEREST SECTIONS IN THE RESPECTIVE CAPITALS TO SERVE AS CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE PERIOD AHEAD. AFTER REVIEW OF POSSIBLE CANDIDATES, JOE SISCO HAS RECOMMENDED SCOTES TO BE OFFICER BEST FITTED FOR JOB. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOUR AGREEMENT TO RELEASE HIM AND HIS CONCURRENCE IN THIS ASSIGNMENT WHICH I CONSIDER TO BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AT THIS JUNCTURE. WE WILL BE GIVING SCOTES TITLE OF COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY FOR THIS JOB AND ARE PLANNING ON PUTTING ANOTHER FSO AND THREE AMERICAN STAFF PERSONNEL INTO DAMASCUS TO SUPPORT HIM.

2. BECAUSE OF URGENCY OF ESTABLISHING CHANNEL FOR DIPLO-
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MATIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH SYRIAN GOVERNMENT, I WOULD LIKE

TO HAVE SCOTES IN DAMASCUS BY NEXT WEEK AT LATEST. WE
WILL HOWEVER NEED TO SEE HIM HERE IN WASHINGTON FOR A DAY
OR TWO FOR BRIEFING. SCOTES SHOULD THEREFORE PLAN TO
BE HERE BY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29 IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
3. TRAVEL DATA WILL FOLLOW BY SEPARATE CABLE. KISSINGER*

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Message Attributes

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To: TUNIS
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